

The method by which the logs are rolled up into position on top of the pit is obvious, as well as the manner in which the supports underneath can be moved back and forth to allow passage of the saw.

Point 9 - Blockhouse No. 3 - This is one of the defensible barrack buildings which served as quarters for the ordinary soldiers of the garrison. Its timber walls, ten inches or more in thickness, could not be penetrated by the musketry fire of a century ago. Unusual is the method of dovetailing or interlocking the timbers at the corners of all the blockhouses.

An interesting collection of Canadian pioneer tools and implements is displayed on the lower floor of No. 3 Blockhouse.

In the upper floor is displayed an impressive collection of what might be called "Canadiana Art," which are colored drawings of old places throughout Canada. Many scenes, depicting events and periods in Canadian history are among the collection of 275 exhibits.

Point 10 - Blockhouse No. 2 - This is the largest of the barrack buildings and was originally constructed by the Royal Engineers at a cost of £310 8s. 6d.

The interior has been furnished as it was when occupied by British troops from 1797 to 1813. It contains sleeping bunks, arms racks and barrack room shelves. The cannon which fire through the embrasures on the upper floor can either be fired straight across the river or be depressed to command the large centre bastion, sometimes called the "Flag" or "Cavalier Bastion."

Point 11 - Blockhouse No. 1 - This building is similar in construction to No. 3 Blockhouse. On the upper floor is exhibited what is probably the oldest firefighting equipment in Ontario. The lower floor contains an extensive display of pioneer relics, a large majority of which were the property of the Servoss-Snyder estate at Palatine Hill, near Niagara. The visitor's attention is particularly directed to this impressive and authentic display, which was acquired, over many years, by the famous pioneer family.

The general layout of the three blockhouses merits attention. No. 1 Blockhouse extends to the west of both No. 2 and No. 3, while No. 3 in turn extends to the east of the other two. This arrangement of the buildings provided an effective flanking fire in case the enemy were successful in penetrating the outer defences and assaulted the barrack buildings at close quarters.

Point 12 - The Flag Bastion - This, the largest of the six bastions in Fort George, was redesigned and strengthened by General Brock, shortly before the outbreak of war in 1812. The two heavy cannon were cast in the Carron Foundry at Glasgow, Scotland, in 1807. Firing a shot weighing 24 pounds, they had an effective range of approximately a mile and a quarter at an elevation of eight degrees.

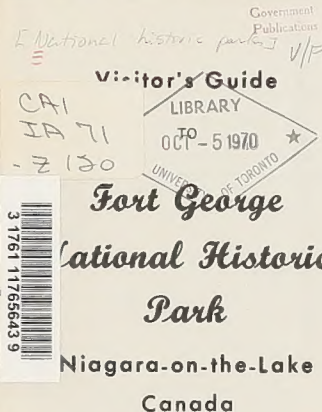
The present flagpole stands on the same site and is similar in construction to its original of 1797. The flag flown is a reproduction of the jack in use when Fort George was constructed by Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in the years 1796-9. It consists of the red cross of St. George superimposed on the diagonal white cross of St. Andrew and stands for the union of England and Scotland which took place in 1707. The alteration of this Union Jack to its present form through the addition of the diagonal red cross of St. Patrick did not occur until 1801 when the union of Ireland with Great Britain was completed.

Point 13 - Museum Building - Although not one of the original Fort George buildings, this small structure dates from 1815. It was originally erected as quarters for officers, but now houses a collection of buttons, regimental badges, bayonets, musket parts and many other articles which were excavated from the ruins of the Fort during the restoration.

Point 14 - Brock's Bastion - Here, Sir Isaac Brock, the hero of Upper Canada, and his friend and aide-de-camp Colonel McDonnell who heroically lost their lives at the Battle of Queenston Heights, October 13, 1812, were buried from 1812 until 1824. In the latter year, the bodies were disinterred and laid in their present resting place, a vault beneath the imposing national memorial to

Brock at Queenston Heights. A stone in the centre of the bastion marks the site of the original graves.

The small gun mounted in this bastion is a 6-pounder naval gun which was once part of the armament of H.M.S. Princess Charlotte, a British warship built on Lake Ontario during the war of 1812. After 129 years under water, it was salvaged in 1937 from the bottom of Dead Man's Bay at Kingston, Ontario.



Guide service is generally available to visitors at Fort George but to make a complete tour of Fort George it is only necessary to follow the directional arrows starting at the Fort Gates.

Fort George, reconstructed from 1937 to 1940 by the Niagara Parks Commission to the period of 1796 to 1813, was transferred to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, October 1, 1969 and declared a national historic park.

Fort George is part of the Niagara Frontier National Historic Parks system, which includes Fort Mississauga, Butler's Barracks, Brock's Monument at Queenston Heights, part of the park land leading down towards Queenston, Navy Hall and a section of the Rainbow Bridge Information Center at Niagara Falls.

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Points of Interest in Fort George . . at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada

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Point 1 — The Fort Entrance — Notice the heavy construction of the entrance gates and the method of securement by means of massive hooks. They open outwards on the theory that in case of a surprise attack, the crush of an enemy attempting to force his way in would assist the Fort's defenders in closing the entrance. The ditch in front is crossed by a light wooden bridge so constructed as to be capable of being quickly destroyed by the garrison in the event of attack. Before the gateway is a triangular stockade called a "redan," intended to screen the gateway from direct fire or to assist the garrison in the event of a sortie.

Directly inside the entrance is a stone cairn erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada in commemoration of historic events in the history of Fort George.

Point 2 — The Guardhouse — This small building consists of a Guard Room and six log cells for the close confinement of prisoners. The Guard Room was headquarters for the men on duty responsible for the relief of the various sentry-posts about the Fort and the guarding of prisoners. In this room is the usual guard bench on which the men might rest between periods of sentry-duty, racks for their arms, and shelves for their equipment. The prison cells speak for themselves. You will see that their solid construction left slight possibility for escape.

Close to the Guardhouse are two interesting features. There is a reproduction of the stocks in general use a century ago for the punishment of minor offences such as drunkenness; also, there is the Fort whipping-post to which offenders were secured when the lash was to be administered for serious offences. Procedure in the latter case was extremely formal. A non-commissioned officer stood behind the prisoner holding the cat o' nine tails. Behind this N.C.O. stood the Regimental Sergeant-Major to strike the former in case he failed to apply the lash vigorously. Behind the Sergeant-Major, in his turn, stood the Commanding Officer prepared to strike the R.S.M.

with the flat of his sword should he be not diligent enough in prodding the N.C.O. Under this system, the prisoner received little mercy.

Point 3 — The Officers' Quarters — The first room that will be observed upon entering this building is the Mess Room where the officers dined and entertained their guests. Tradition associates an interesting story with this chamber in the original Fort. It concerns the circumstances under which news of the declaration of war in 1812 was received at Fort George. A group of officers of the American garrison at Fort Niagara (just across the river) were guests at the mess of the 41st Regiment in Fort George. While dinner was in progress, word arrived that war had been declared. The British officers, we are told, insisted that the meal should proceed and at its close accompanied the Americans to their boats where hosts and guests parted with much handshaking, although now become enemies through the irony of fate.

Within the Mess Room are several items of exceptional interest. The Royal coat-of-arms above the fireplace at the west end of the room once hung over the doorway to the British Embassy in Washington. When war broke out in 1812, His Majesty's Ambassador to the United States went home by way of Canada, bringing this coat-of-arms with him lest it remain as a trophy for the Americans. Also on display in the Mess Room are reproductions of some of the early plans of Fort George which have been copied from the originals in the Canadian Archives. The grandfather clock which stands in the centre of the north wall is an excellent example of late 18th century craftsmanship. It is operated by weights and the works are made entirely from wood.

The Officers' Quarters contains, in addition to the Mess Room, an Orderly Room, a Messman's Room, and bedrooms for the Commanding Officer as well as six other officers of lesser ranks.

Point 4 — The Fort Kitchen — Adjacent to the Officers' Building is the Fort Kitchen where meals were prepared for the garrison. The huge fireplace and the bake-oven are outstanding features. The method by which bread was baked in the oven is as follows: Hardwood logs were first burned in the fire-box at the bottom of the oven until all smoke had disappeared and but glowing embers remained. These were then spread upon the bricks of the oven and the door closed. When the interior had reached the desired temperature, the embers were raked out and the freshly-kneaded dough placed upon the hot bricks which retained sufficient heat to bake the bread.

Point 5 — The Artificer's Shop — The original of this building was a general workshop for the shoeing of horses and the manufacture and repair of many items of garrison equipment. The large hand-operated bellows and the antique anvil and blacksmith's tools should be noted. All the door-latches, hinges and other hardware required for the restoration were made by hand in this building.

Point 6 — The Powder Magazine — This was the only building in Fort George which survived the war of 1812 and has remained intact to the present day. The estimated cost in 1796 was £213 4s. 0d. Outside of the addition of a new roof, doors and shutters, and a careful pointing of the masonry, it stands today as left by its original builders.

You will notice that there is no iron or steel used anywhere in the construction of the magazine. The floor is put down with wooden pegs and copper is utilized as sheathing for the doors and shutters and even as material for the massive locks and bolts. These precautions were taken to minimize the danger of an explosion through the accidental striking of a spark.

The high bank of earth (called an epaulement) to the north and east of the magazine was erected in the late autumn of 1812 to afford protection from the fire of

the American guns in Fort Niagara. The necessity for this measure had become evident as a result of the heavy artillery battle which took place between the two forts on October 13, the day of the Battle of Queenston Heights. The enemy's shells had then set the roof of the magazine ablaze. The seemingly inevitable explosion of the 800 barrels of powder stored there was only narrowly averted by the heroic action of Capt. Vigoreux of the Royal Engineers who climbed upon the burning building without a moment's hesitation. His gallant example being quickly followed by several others, the metal covering was soon torn away and the flames extinguished in the wood beneath.

Point 7 — The South Redan — (located outside the Fort proper). This advanced work is similar in shape to the north redan but is constructed upon a slightly larger scale and closed with picketting at the rear. In the centre of its triangular enclosure is a small two-storied blockhouse, octagonal in shape. Observe the craftsmanship displayed in the interlocking of the square logs in this structure. The projection of the upper part of the building beyond the lower story allows for the construction of loop holes about the margin of the upper floor from which fire can be directed downwards on the heads of attackers. Such an arrangement is called a "machicoulis." The blockhouse is accessible through an enclosed tunnel.

Point 8 — The Sawpit — Modern mill machinery could not be used in connection with the restoration because the markings produced on boards by means of power-driven, circular saws are quite unlike the effect produced by the old-fashioned pitsaw. Most of the boards utilized in the restoration of Fort George were sawn by hand in this sawpit. Two men are necessary for the operation of the pitsaw. One stands on top of the log, his mate in the pit and by their combined action, the timber is sawn into boards of any required thickness.